

REHABILITATIVE SERVICES INCENTIVE FUND

*Providing grants to address unmet needs and develop community programs
for people with physical and/or sensory disabilities*

What is the Rehabilitative Services Incentive Fund (RSIF)?

In 1994, Virginia's General Assembly approved the creation of Rehabilitative Services Incentive Fund (RSIF) to address unmet or under-served needs identified in local Disability Services Board (DSB) needs assessments and develop community programs for people with physical and/or sensory disabilities. Single or multiple year grants from the Fund are available to public, for-profit and non-profit organizations through local DSBs when localities chose to match state appropriations. Grants may be used to increase service capacity through expanding existing services or creating new services, but more importantly to stimulate model programs, coordinated service systems and program innovations. As of 1999, the fund receives \$912,500 in state dollars annually.

What kinds of grants have been awarded?

Funds may be used to address gaps in services, support innovative programs, improve coordination in service delivery, and promote public awareness. Grants cannot be used to meet requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Some grants that have been awarded are to:

- an Area Agency on Aging to purchase rides for persons with physical and sensory disabilities to medical appointments
- local libraries to purchase Assistive technology to expand access to material for people with sensory disabilities
- a non-profit organization to offer a workshop program to improve job-finding and peer mentoring skills for persons with physical and sensory disabilities
- a Center for Independent Living to establish an outreach office
- an organization providing a CUE Camp to educate individuals desiring more information regarding Cued Speech, transliterating and interpreting

How do I get more information about the RSIF?

Your local Disability Services Board can provide you with an application packet and more information about the Rehabilitative Services Incentive Fund. For information on how to contact your local Board, call Shirley S. Ferguson and Sheila Williams at 1-800-552-5019 (voice) or 1-800-464-9950 (TTY).